Execution of works in the Telecom Sector

1592. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is unrealistic planning with respect to execution of work in the telecom sector and lack of awareness about lead time required for supply of equipment; and

(b) what is being done to rectify this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, since the department executes a large number of projects (in thousands, at times in a few cases il may happen that due to certain unforeseen circumstances the project get delayed. Also at limes there are delays in supply of equipment due to induction of new technology equipment indigenously manufactured which require a type approval and a field trial before induction into the telecom network. Corrective action in all these cases is being taken immediately. The progress of on-going works is being reviewed regularly in the Telecom Commission headquarters and a regular and continuous interaction is also there with field units.

Depredations by the Virappan Gang in Sandal Forests in South

1593. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-
BHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the extent of depredations caused by the Virappan gang and others in the Sandal forests in the South during the current year so far; and

(b) what steps have been taken by the Central and State Governments concerned to prevent the depredation of forests and the wild life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Union and State Governments concerned to prevent the depredations of the forests and the wildlife.

— Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 are enforced to check forest and wildlife offences.

— Surprise combing operations and night patrolling are carried out by the forest officials in the sandal wood belts.

— Forest Check-posts at strategic points have been set up.

— High Frequency and Very High Frequency wireless communication network has been set up in vulnerable areas.

— Special Courts have been set up in the States like TamilNadu and Kerala to enable speedy disposal of forest offence cases involving sandal wood and scheduled timber.

— Flying squads have been formed and equipped with modem communication sets, arms and vehicles to carry out effective patrolling in the vulnerable areas.

— Forest Protection Squads have been established in sandal belts.

— Rewards are given to people who provide valuable information about smuggling and detection of sandal wood cases.

— Steps are being taken to create awareness among tribals and poor people to wean them away from the smugglers and anti-socials.

— Vehicles used in sandal-wood offences are seized.

— A Special Task Force (STF) has also been jointly constituted 'by the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka with sole objective of nabbing the Virappan gang.